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**Congress of the United States**  
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September 7, 2021

The Honorable Denis McDonough  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20420

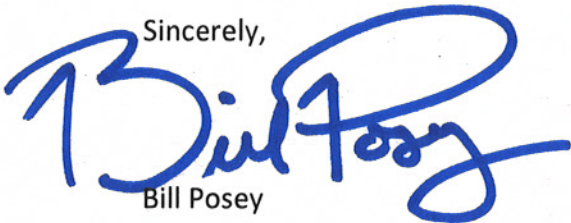
Dear Secretary McDonough:

Recent attempts and initiatives within the Veterans Affairs health care community to degrade the standard of anesthesiology care and to ignore Florida's higher medical practice standards are unwarranted. Our veterans deserve the highest standards of anesthesiology that are documented as available to 96% of the United States. The VA affirmed this standard in a 2017 formal rulemaking after years of VA expert research and two public comment periods that drew over 200,000 comments. This standard has guaranteed our veterans access to safe, high-quality care and excellent outcomes.

To assure this standard of care, I urge you to uphold the team-based model of care where physician anesthesiologists and nurse anesthetists work together as the national standard of practice for surgical anesthesia in VA health care facilities. In addition, I urge that Veterans Affairs facilities respect the state standards of care applicable to the veteran populations they serve. Departure from state standards should be rare and justified by substantial evidence.

Assuring the highest standards of care for our veterans is a fundamental value of the United States and we cannot cut corners or accept compromises. If I can assist the Department of Veterans Affairs in assuring the high standards we expect, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Bill Posey  
Member of Congress